

## BLAME PUT ON GERMANS FOR STRIKE AT BIG ARMS FACTORY

Officials of Remington Plant Accuse Labor Union Men of Causing Trouble After Taking Bribes.

Retired Army Officer Declares Bridgeport Factory Faces Shut-Down Because of Disaffection of Workers.

BRIDGEPORT, July 14.—A concerted labor movement has virtually tied up construction work on the Remington Arms Company's 102-acre small arms plant and the new ammunition factory, and today the movement threatened to stop the output of munition of war from this city, which the completion of the new plants would make the greatest center of small arms manufacture in the world.

The structural ironworkers, who went out on the arms plant and on the munitions plant, do not ask for more pay, they do not ask for better hours, they do not ask for improved working conditions. The strike has been called on account of an alleged "family" fight among the unions. Both sides today were adamant in their declarations that they would not back down.

Officials of the Remington Company blame the whole crisis upon German sympathizers. Major Walter W. Penfield, U. S. A., retired, who left the ordnance bureau in March to head the arms company, said:

### WORK OF GERMANS.

"There is not a shadow of doubt that this whole thing is the work of German or German sympathizers. In trying to tie up the work of the arms company, they are committing no crime. I don't blame them. It is a part of their game; but it is time the American workmen in our employ realize that they are merely tools, and are sacrificing their powers and rights as union men to serve a cause of which they know not. I am not speaking from hearsay or suspicion. I have good reasons to know just what I am talking of. I would not make any such statement if I were not sure of my ground. For six weeks ago the bricklayers on our plant struck. The reasons seemed very shady. They were called out by labor officials, and they went out. We conducted an investigation, and I found positively that two labor officials, minor in rank, were paid \$2,000 in New York to cause the trouble. The same thing has been done now."

### Question of Time.

Asked what was the seriousness of the strike of the structural iron workers, the major replied that while the work on the buildings had not stopped, it was a question of time before that stage could be reached where the construction work could not proceed further without the jobs done by the iron workers. The organizers of the strike played a trump card today when they sent out of the city to other jobs more than half of the structural iron workers who have been on strike. This means the contractors will have to scour the country for men, even if the strike is called off.

Bridgeport is a summer town today. Deep down in its heart it has the fear of losing the greatest prosperity that has ever come to it. Most serious is the circumstance that if the labor leaders carry out threats, twenty-one factories, which have subcontracts from the Remington plant, will face walk-outs. Nearly every machine shop in the city is making parts of arms or parts of shells under Remington direction.

### Mine Sweepers Division Organized by Daniels

Secretary of the Navy Daniels today announced the organization of a division of mining and mine sweepers of the Atlantic fleet. The division will consist of the Baltimore, the San Francisco, the Ontario, the Patuxent, the Patuxent, and the Sonoma.

They will operate under the command of Rear Admiral Fletcher.

### Outrages Committed by Italians, Says Berlin

BERLIN (via wireless to Sayville), July 14.—Two hundred Italian bersagliers, who invaded the Austrian village of Larenzo, committed outrages against women, pillaged houses and sent the mayor, the village priest and ten civilians into Italy as hostages, according to letters made public here today by the press bureau.

Free Dancing at Great Falls, Va.—Adv.

## BERLIN FAILS TO GRASP U. S. PUBLIC OPINION

BERLIN (via wireless to Sayville), July 14.—"Press dispatches from English sources, reporting a most unfavorable reception of the German note by the American press, are generally discredited here," said a semi-official statement issued here today.

"The German newspapers are fully aware that the Eastern American papers, which were quoted, with few exceptions are hopelessly un-American and pro-British and do not fully reflect public opinion in America."

## Mere Speck Now on Sun Only 75,000 Miles Long

Other Lesser "Spots" in Supporting Cast May Have Caused This Cool Summer, and Maybe Not.

There's a little "spot" on the sun today—a mere speck some 75,000 miles from end to end.

Probably the wayfarer man, untrained in the realm of science and the uses of long-distance photography, knows nothing about the spot—but the photograph of the spotted orb of day is in possession of Capt. J. A. Hoogerwerf, superintendent of the Naval Observatory, and he says the blot on the sun represents a little matter of 75,000 miles, figuring distance as it is figured on this observatory globe.

To be exact there are seven spots on the sun today—or they were there when the photograph was taken yesterday—but the remaining six are only blemishes as compared to the headliner.

One may blame most anything on a sun spot, because scientists are not agreed as to what effect, if any, they have on things here below. It is entirely logical, says Captain Hoogerwerf, to assume that the cool weather of the present summer may be in part attributable to sun spots, which have been hanging about the heat-giving orb for some weeks.

The Naval Observatory scientist was once convinced that sun spots have an effect upon the magnetic condition of the earth, but this has not been proven as a scientist is still wondering and making photographs.

Why Is a Sun Spot?

The layman may answer the question "Why a sun spot?" in any manner that suits him.

Sudden thunder storms, overdue rent, a dark brown taste in the mouth, love affairs, divorce suits, the money business, the European war and the standing of the Washington baseball team—one or all may be blamed on the sun spots and one can do nothing more than start an argument, for nobody appears to have the answer.

According to Captain Hoogerwerf the sun is almost always in more or less spotted condition—as though it had a coat of heavenly smudges—but every eleven years the spots reach the limit in number and magnitude. That 75,000 mile spot is about the limit and it has a supporting cast of six other spots which looked on the photograph to be anywhere from 300 to 50,000 miles across.

The big spot, as shown on the Naval Observatory picture, resembles an elongated island and lies in the northeast corner of the big light. Its outline is distinct, but about it there is a shadow zone which perhaps represents a few more thousand miles.

Twenty-seven days to cross. It requires about twenty-seven days, the experts say, for an ambitious spot to traverse the sun, and then it may turn around and go back again, or it may go on the opposite side. At least, this is the way it looks from this vantage point.

Small spots have hovered across the surface of the sun for several weeks, according to observatory photographs. Captain Hoogerwerf was asked today if the prevalence of more than the usual number of such blurring visitors might have caused the cool summer (albeit it is reasonably warm today). The observatory superintendent said "maybe or maybe not."

This being a story for the layman, who isn't going to strain his eyes this afternoon searching for the sun spot, this scientific subject is now dismissed with the observation of the superintendent of the Naval Observatory, and everybody is entitled to his own opinion.

## UTILITIES BODY TO BLOCK PLEA FOR BOND ISSUE

Conrad H. Syme, General Counsel, Charges Company Wants \$341,000 Because of Unearned Dividends.

Corporation Maintains That Reasons Given by the Commission Are Not Sufficient or Valid in Law.

Expressing the belief that no court, even if it has the power, will attempt to compel the Public Utilities Commission to authorize the bond issue of \$341,000 requested by the Washington Railway and Electric Company "when it is apparent that this company is using money which it has not earned for the purpose of paying dividends on its common stock," Conrad H. Syme, general counsel, today submitted to the commission an opinion upon which it will defend its action, if necessary, in the courts.

The commission on July 2 received from the Washington Railway and Electric Company a letter of notification that it was dissatisfied with the commission's order refusing to authorize the issuance and sale of bonds amounting to \$341,000, and stating that if the commission declined to reconsider its position the company would be obliged, "however reluctantly," to take steps to enter an appeal.

### COUNSEL SYME'S OPINION.

Request was made that the application be acted on not later than July 15. The letter was referred immediately to the general counsel, who, in his opinion, says:

"I notice from the correspondence that the railway company threatens to institute proceedings to compel the commission to approve the bond issue. Investigations heretofore made by the commission of the affairs of this company disclose a condition which, in my judgment, amply justifies the commission's refusal to authorize the bond issue requested by the railway company when it is apparent that this company is using money which it has not earned for the purpose of paying dividends on its common stock."

"In my opinion, no court, if indeed it has the power, which I greatly doubt, will attempt to compel the commission to authorize the bond issue requested by the railway company when it is apparent that this company is using money which it has not earned for the purpose of paying dividends on its common stock."

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## GERMANS MAKE GAIN OF HALF MILE

Capture 2,681 Prisoners at Vienne le Chateau, Berlin Announces.

BERLIN, July 14.—German troops stormed a French position northeast of Vienne le Chateau yesterday, hurling the French back for more than half a mile and capturing 2,681 prisoners, the war office announced this afternoon.

## Germans Attempting to Complete Destruction Of Arras and Soissons

PARIS, July 14.—Both Arras and Soissons are being heavily bombed by big, high-power explosive shells, official dispatches reported this afternoon. The Germans have put in action several long-range guns on the plateau across the Aisne and are attempting to destroy Soissons. Fires have broken out anew in Arras, where the Germans are attempting to complete the destruction of the town.

This afternoon's official communiqué reports the repulse of a German attack on the British positions southwest of Pihen. The Germans shelled the English positions around Pihen for several hours and then attempted to take the radio tower by storm. Machine gun fire tore gaps in the charging columns and the enemy finally retired.

During the night the Germans did not resume their violent attacks against the French lines around Soissons. There were minor clashes and grenade fighting north of Chateau Carleu and in the labyrinth region, but nothing of importance occurred on this front.

## CONSTITUTIONALIST CHIEF WHO CAPTURED CAPITAL



GENERAL PABLO GONZALES, Who has thrown himself and his staff into the work of organizing a local government in Mexico City for a quick return to formal conditions.

## Villista Failure Denied; Gen. Obregon Isolated

Northern Leader Will Not Yield to Robles—Carranza Plans Appeal to U. S. for Recognition—First Chief's Forces Take Aguascalientes.

Denying the claims of General Carranza that his capture of Mexico City foreshadows an early collapse of his enemies, the Villa agency today issued a statement declaring that the Villistas have completely isolated General Obregon in northern Mexico.

The importance of such a claim, if true, it is said, lies in the fact that it would require Carranza to withdraw the bulk of the army under Gonzalez, now guarding Mexico City, and send it to Obregon's rescue, while exposing the capital to fresh attacks from the remnants of Zapata's army.

### Aguascalientes Is Taken.

The Carranza agency admits lack of information concerning the status of Obregon's army.

The State Department has received a report from the Brazilian minister, which, in commenting favorably on what General Gonzalez has done in restoring order in Mexico City, adds that the Carranzistas have captured Aguascalientes.

Giving hint of his intention shortly to apply to President Wilson for formal recognition, General Carranza cabled a personal message today to his local agents here declaring that the constitutionalists had clearly demonstrated their superiority over the Villista faction.

### Guarantees To All.

"Referring to the occupation of Mexico City, Gen. Pablo Gonzalez was asked today by the press what guarantees he would give to the natives and foreigners. He has instructions from me severely to punish all crimes against property."

"Within a few days I will, in my capacity of first chief, leave an amnesty law in an endeavor to have those in error returned to the true path, so as to restore peace and order in the republic."

### Villista Not To Retire.

The statement of the Villa agency says in part:

## BERNSTORFF WILL CALL ON LANSING; MAY SEE PRESIDENT

Wilson to Return on or Before Monday—Not Disposed to Cut Short Discussion of Issues With Germany.

Executive Purposes to Avoid War—Officers Believe Next Note to Berlin Will Not Sever Diplomatic Relations.

With indications pointing to a return of President Wilson to Washington on or before next Monday, Secretary of State Lansing made it known today that within a few days he will hold a conference with Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador.

The ambassador several days ago suggested that he would be glad, if the Secretary so desired, to give whatever aid he could in making plain to this Government the attitude of Germany, and in arriving, if possible, at a better understanding.

With reliable newspaper dispatches from Berlin echoing the continued hope of officials there that an amicable adjustment of the controversy can be reached, it is probable that if Germany is prepared to make further concessions to the demands of the United States, Count von Bernstorff will be in position so to advise Mr. Lansing.

### MAY CALL ON WILSON.

Officials here are inclined to think that the conference may produce some results. To many the fact that Mr. Lansing has agreed to receive the ambassador indicates that the Administration is not disposed to cut short the discussion of the issues involved.

It is thought more than probable that if the ambassador has definite propositions to advance the President may consent, as he did before the last exchange of notes, to receive the ambassador in person.

Despite the admittedly serious turn which the negotiations have taken, more conservative opinion in official circles still clings to the belief that the President, next week to Germany, while perhaps more emphatic in tone, will not sever diplomatic relations. While it is realized that such a step would not necessarily mean war, it is regarded as so close to war as to make such an outcome more or less inevitable.

### Wishes To Avoid War.

The President, these officials are careful to point out, does not want war. Even viewed from the standpoint of politics, it is not thought that the President would wish to lose the strength he has gained by his success in avoiding war, or would justify the predictions of former Secretary Bryan that his course must lead to war.

It is still felt that so long as Germany refrains from a repetition of the Lusitania outrage, the "broader grounds of humanity" would justify the President in refusing to plunge the United States into war.

For these reasons, conservative advisers of the President refuse to be moved by the views of more warlike observers, and are confident that while the President will make his next note a flat reassertion of American rights, he will not close the door to further parley.

### U-Boat Commanders Ordered to Use Care As to Human Lives

AMSTERDAM, July 14.—Reports that German submarine commanders, since the torpedoing of the Lusitania, have been instructed to exercise more care with regard to human lives, were particularly corroborated in a semi-official statement given out at Berlin today.

Reviewing the results of the submarine activities, the statement declared that "the loss of human life has been remarkably small, the submarines using every precaution and giving ample warning and time to leave the ship if no resistance is offered."

During the month of June forty-two enemy merchantmen, including twenty-nine British, nine Russian, three French, and one Belgian vessel, were sunk by German submarines, the statement said, besides a number of small fishing boats armed as patrols. This represented a loss of 125,000 tons in shipping to Germany's enemies.

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Special Round Trip North. Carolina Point July 16. Northern Railway. Special Train Lv. Washington, 3 p. m. Limit 10 days. —Adv.